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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

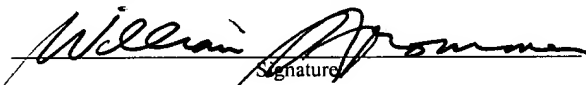
Applicant(s) : Tetsujiro KONDO et al. Notice of Allowance
Dated: 09/08/2004
Serial No. : 09/944,758 CONFIRMATION NO. 2754
For : DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND DATA PROCESSING
METHOD, DECODING APPARATUS AND METHOD THEREOF,
AND RECORDING MEDIUM
Filed : August 31, 2001
Examiner : Christopher L. Lavin
Art Unit : 2621

745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 22, 2004

William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative



Signature

September 22, 2004

Date of Signature

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

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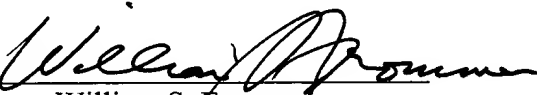
Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed September 8, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

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